

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A circuit board comprising a mechanism for
2 provably disabling the circuit board, the mechanism comprising:
signal means for conducting a signal between the mechanism and the circuit
4 board; ~~and~~
separation means for facilitating detachment of the mechanism from the circuit
6 board; and
identification means for identifying the mechanism;
8 wherein the circuit board becomes at least partly non-functional if the mechanism
is detached from the circuit board.

2. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said signal means
2 comprises a wire trace.

3. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said separation means
2 comprises one or more gaps between the mechanism and the circuit board.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The circuit board of claim 4, wherein said identification
2 means comprises an identification circuit.

6. (Original) The circuit board of claim 4, wherein said identification
2 means comprises a visible identification code.

7. (Original) The circuit board of claim 4, wherein said identification
2 means is protected from being easily manipulated.

8. (Currently Amended) In an electronic assembly, a mechanism for
2 at least partially disabling the electronic assembly, the mechanism comprising:

4 a segment of the electronic assembly configured to be detachable from the
electronic assembly;
one or more signal conductors configured to carry one or more signals between
6 the mechanism and the electronic assembly; and
an identification configured to identify the electronic assembly;
8 wherein said signal conductor is broken when said segment is detached from the
electronic assembly.

9. (Original) The mechanism of claim 8, wherein said identification
2 comprises an electronic identification module having a programmed identification code.

10. (Original) The mechanism of claim 9, wherein said identification code
2 is readable only after said one or more signal conductors are severed.

11. (Original) The mechanism of claim 8, wherein said identification is
2 protected from being manipulated.

12. (Original) The mechanism of claim 8, wherein said identification is
2 encapsulated to prevent easy removal of said identification.

13. (Original) The mechanism of claim 8, wherein the mechanism is
2 bordered by one or more gaps separating the mechanism from the electronic assembly.

14. (Original) The mechanism of claim 8, wherein the electronic
2 assembly is a circuit board, and said segment comprises a segment of the circuit board
bordering an edge of the circuit board.

15. (Original) The mechanism of claim 14, wherein the edge of the circuit
2 board is an external edge of the circuit board.

16. (Original) The mechanism of claim 14, wherein the edge of the circuit

2 board is an internal edge defined by a bore through the circuit board.

17. (Withdrawn) A mechanism for disabling an electronic assembly,
2 comprising:
a portion of the electronic assembly detachable from the assembly; and
4 within said portion, a signal conduit configured to carry a signal;
wherein the electronic assembly is operable while said portion is attached to the
6 assembly; and
wherein one or more functions of the electronic assembly become inoperable
8 when said portion is detached from the assembly.

18. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 17, further comprising an
2 identification module.

19. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 18, wherein said identification
2 module is configured to prevent manipulation of said identification module.

20. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 18, wherein said identification
2 module comprises a programmed identification code.

21. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 18, wherein said identification
2 module comprises a barcode.

22. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 18, wherein said identification
2 module comprises a hologram.

23. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 18, wherein said identification
2 module comprises a serial number.

24. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 17, wherein said portion and the
2 assembly are coplanar.

25. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 17, wherein the mechanism
2 further comprises one or more gaps between said portion and the assembly.

26. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 17, wherein a plane of said
2 portion is aligned at an angle to a plane of the assembly during normal operation of the
electronic assembly.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of ensuring the disablement of an electronic
2 assembly, comprising:
receiving an electronic assembly for disablement, the electronic assembly
4 comprising a detachable key, said key comprising:
a signal conductor configured to convey a signal between said key and the
6 electronic assembly;
detaching said key from the electronic assembly; and
8 proffering evidence that said key has been detached.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein said proffering comprises
2 proffering said key.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein said key further
2 comprises:
an identification code.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein said proffering comprises
2 proffering said identification code.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein said identification code is
2 one of: a barcode, a serial number and a hologram.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein said identification code is

2 a code programmed into an electronic identification module.

2 33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein said detaching comprises:
severing said signal conductor.